

Cuba Expresses Regret in "Floridian" Incident

*Department Statement*¹

In connection with the United States' demand for a full and prompt explanation involving the shooting by Cuban MIG aircraft near the motorship *Floridian* March 28, the Czech Ambassador [Miloslav Ruzek] today called on the Department to deliver a note from the government of Cuba. The Cuban government stated that the pilots of its two MIG aircraft had arrived at the erroneous conclusion that the *Floridian* was an enemy vessel. The Cuban government further stated that it had no wish to interfere with the U.S. or other international shipping in the Caribbean, that it regrets the incident of March 28, and that it is undertaking to adopt all possible measures to avoid a recurrence of the incident.

¹ Read to news correspondents on Apr. 2 by Lincoln White, Director of the Office of News; for background, see BULLETIN of A. F. 15, 1963, p. 573.